



A Message about using blogs, Facebook, and other Internet-based media

Dear Fulbrighters:

With the growth of blogging and social networking sites in recent years, Fulbrighters have had more opportunity than ever to share their experiences with friends, family and the Internet community. This in turn brings positive attention to the Fulbright Program and its impact not only on the Fulbrighter but the host community as well.

Recognizing the reach and impact of these media, the Fulbright Program has partnered with mtvU for a number of U.S. student awards that showcase the power of music. Each student writes a blog, which is posted on the mtvU website. We are also in the process of launching an official Fulbright page on Facebook, to compliment the myriad Fulbright groups already on Facebook.

Should you decide to share your Fulbright experiences publicly via web-based media (and we hope you will), there are a few points that you should keep in mind:

1. Avoid confusion by acknowledging that yours is not an official Department of State website, and the views and information presented are your own and do not represent the Fulbright Program or the Department of State.
2. While participants in all U.S. State Department-sponsored academic exchange scholarships have full academic and artistic freedom to write, publish and create, they are also expected to maintain a standard of conduct that is in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Fulbright Program – to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.
3. Any Fulbright grantee who posts inappropriate or offensive material on the Internet in relation to the Fulbright program may be subject to revocation or termination of their grant. Be aware that what is deemed culturally acceptable in the United States (or, more specifically, on the Internet in the United States) may not be received well overseas. Describing the challenges of living in a foreign country is fine, but please refrain from using disparaging language to describe the country you are in and the people you live and work with.

Thanks for your understanding. Contact us at fulbright@state.gov if you have any questions.